short message was sent to the terminating mobile station **16** and that the full special content message was posted on a web page available to users of the internet and maintained by the special application service center **14**. Thus, FIG. **3** shows means **62** for posting the special content message (processed according to the special application) on a web page that is maintained in the special application service center and that was identified in the short message sent to the terminating mobile station in the step **40***a* of FIG. **4**. It should be realized that it is not necessary to send any message back to the originating mobile station and that step **60** could simply consist of posting the special content message to the internet for access by the user of the terminating mobile station **16** by means of a PC **34**.

FIG. **5** shows some of the functions of the terminating mobile station **16** which are pertinent to carrying out the present invention. It will be realized that the terminating mobile station is comprised of various hardware, including an antenna, a transceiver, a modulator, a demodulator, a controller, a display, a speaker, a microphone, a memory, a keypad, etc. The controller in conjunction with the memory are usually assigned the tasks that are shown in functional blocks in FIG. **6** and are normally carried out by software coded, e.g., according to a sequence of steps such as shown in FIG. **6**. For instance, the short message provided on the line **18** from the special application service center **14** is received by means **64** for receiving the short message. As mentioned, the processing of this message would typically be carried out by a controller in the form of a microprocessor in conjunction with a program coded according to a step **64***a* shown in FIG. **6**. The means **64** can then provide the short message on a line **66** to means **68** for checking a starting string, as indicated in a step **68**a of FIG. **6** and determining, as indicated in a step **68***b* whether this is a normal SMS message or whether there is a special application indicated. By "normal" SMS message, in this context, is simply meant a message that does not indicate any special content application. If it is a normal SMS message, i.e., there is no special content indicated, the SMS message is processed as a normal short message and displayed on the display of the terminating mobile station **16** in the form of text, as indicated in a step **70**. By "normal" SMS message, in this context, is meant a message that includes a short textual message that can be provided to the user interface for display, as is "normal" for SMS messages. This can be carried out by means **70***a* for processing the SMS message and means **70***b* for displaying same to the user.

If it were determined in the step **68***b* that there is a special content message, a step **72** is carried out by the means **68** or by means **72***a* for determining the nature of the application. The means **72***a* will then determine whether the application is supported by the terminating mobile station **16**. This is illustrated by a step **72***b* in FIG. **6**. If not, the message is processed as a normal SMS message by the means **70***a*, **70***b* as carried out by the step **70** of FIG. **6**. If the application is supported, a signal is provided on a line **74** to a means **76** for requesting that the special application service center **14** send the special content message. This is signaled from the means **76** of the terminating mobile station **16** on the line **20***a* to the special application service center **14**.

As indicated in the step **42***a* of FIG. **4**, when the service center receives the request from the terminating mobile station, it sends the special content message to the requesting terminating mobile station, as indicated by the signal on the line **20***b*. Before executing the step **54***a* of FIG. **4**, the special application service center of FIG. **3** can check to see if the requesting message came from the same terminating mobile station **16** to which the SMS message on the line **18** was sent, for instance, utilizing caller line identification (CLI). Since the special application service center **14** might have more than one number to which similar SMS messages have been sent, it is useful for the SASC **14** to be able to verify that a message coming from a particular number matches the number to which the original SMS message was sent. An error message can be sent to a terminating mobile station when a mismatch is detected. Or, a special string within the message on the signal line **20***a* can be searched for.

The means **64** for receiving the special content message provides the special content message on a line **78** to the means **70***a* which stores the special content message and may alert the user by sending a signal on a line **80** to the user interface **70***b*, which may have a mechanism for alerting the user to the arrival of a message.

As shown by a step **82** in FIG. **6**, if the user then requests the service, for instance by pushing a button, the means **70***a* for processing the special content message according to the corresponding special application program provides the message to the user over the signal line **80** to the user interface **70***b*, and as indicated by a step **84** of FIG. **6**. In this way, the user with a terminating mobile station **16** that is comparable in capabilities to that of the originating mobile station **10** can fully appreciate the message without having to consult a PC **34**.

Although the invention has been shown and described with respect to a best mode embodiment thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions and additions in the form and detail thereof may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. Method for use by a mobile station in a mobile communications system in receiving a service from an application service center, comprising the steps of:

the mobile station receiving a short message;

the mobile station determining whether the short message indicates that a special application is required in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, determining whether the special application is supported in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, requesting an application service center to provide a service usable according to the special application;

the mobile station receiving the service in the form of a special content message from the application service center; and

the mobile station processing the special content message according to the special application.

2. Method for use by an application service center in providing a special content message provided by an originating mobile station in a mobile communications system to a terminating mobile station in the system, comprising the steps of:

the center receiving the special content message from the originating mobile station with a request to send the special content message to the terminating mobile station and providing a short message to the terminating mobile station with a part of the short message indicating that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station to fully process the special content message and with a textual part of the short message for use by the terminating mobile station in the event that the special application is not supported by the terminating mobile station;

the center receiving a request from the terminating mobile station that the special content message be sent, if the special application is supported in the terminating mobile station; and

the center sending the special content message to the terminating mobile station in response to the request